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News Release

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Eco Finishing Ordered to Pay \$225,000 for Violating Clean Water Act

St. Paul - Eco Finishing Company of Fridley, Minnesota, has been ordered to pay \$225,000 for violating the Clean Water Act. United States District Court Judge Donovan W. Frank imposed the fine at a sentencing hearing on February 15, 2007

According to court documents in this case, Eco Finishing, which operates around the clock, typically discharges approximately 50,000 gallons of industrial wastewater each day. That wastewater enters the sewer system operated and overseen by Metropolitan Council Environmental Services ("MCES"). Prior to discharge, the company is to treat the wastewater to meet parameters set forth in the permit issued to the company by MCES. Court documents indicate, however, that between May of 2001 and April of 2005, the company knowingly violated a requirement of that pretreatment process. The company discharged untreated or inadequately treated hazardous waste water. Company personnel also tampered with monitoring equipment used by the MCES to ensure

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compliance with the company permit and failed to report all tests to regulators. At the sentencing hearing in this matter, Judge Frank also placed the company on three years of probation and ordered it to establish and implement an effective corporate compliance program.

This case was the result of an investigation conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency, Criminal Investigation Division, with the assistance of the MCES. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney William H. Koch. The case follows earlier prosecutions against a number of other metal platers, including Prime Plating and Hard Chrome.

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